

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 04079 201506Z  
ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 /010 W  
-----201519Z 103686 /50  
R 201430Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1737

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4079

EO 11652 GDS  
TAGS CASC (ROSEBAUGH, LAWRENCE) (CAPUANO, THOMAS)  
SUBJECT: W/W: POSSIBLE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO AMERICAN PRIESTS

FOLLOWING MESSAGE FM RECIFE MAY 17 ACTION AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION

QUOTE  
O 171400Z MAY 77  
FM AMCONSUL RECIFE  
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL RECIFE 0055

FOR DCM AND HOFFENBERG  
EO 11652 GDS  
TAGS CASC (ROSEBAUGH, LAWRENCE AND CAPUANO, THOMAS)  
SUBJ: W/W: POSSIBLE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO AMERICAN PRIESTS.

1. CONSULATE HAS BEEN NOTIFIED BY TWO PRIESTS, ONE AMERICAN AND ONE BRAZILIAN OF POSSIBLE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO AMERICAN PRIESTS (LAWRENCE ROSEBOUGH AND THOMAS CAPUANO) IN RECIFE. PRIESTS WERE LAST SEEN SUNDAY EVENING RUNNING SOUP KITCHEN FOR URBAN POOR IN CENTRAL RECIFE. CAPUANO, A MENONITE, IS REGISTERED WITH THE CONSULATE BUT ROSEBOUGH, A CATHOLIC, IS NOT.

2. SOURCES STATE THAT MISSING PRIESTS OPERATED WITHOUT A FIXED  
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BASE, OFTEN SLEPT ON THE STREETS, AND NEVER FOLLOWED A SET SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITY OR MOVEMENT. THEY WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN UNDER POLICE SURVEILLANCE BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THIS AND THEY HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED ANY OVERT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

3. SOURCES ADMIT THAT MISSING PRIESTS MAY HAVE SIMPLY TRAVELLED BUT STATE THAT THEY HAVE SPENT MUCH OF THE PAST TWO DAYS ATTEMPTING

TO LOCATE THEM AND BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE CHECKED ALL NON-POLICE  
POSSIBILITIES (HOSPITALS, CLINICS, OTHER SOCIAL WORKERS,  
FRIENDS AND FOLLOWERS OF THE TWO, ETC.) WITHOUT SUCCESS.

4. POST HAS BEGUN TO INVESTIGATE DISAPPEARANCE BY CONTACTING LOCAL  
HOSPITALS, CLINICS, AND MORGUES. SHOULD NO INFORMATION BE FOUND  
AT THESE SOURCES, LOCAL POLICE DELGACIAS WILL BE CONTACTED  
CONCERNING DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO AMERICANS. FURTHER ACTION CONCERNING  
HIGHER LEVEL AUTHORITIES SUCH AS DOPS OR THE FOURTH ARMY TO AWAIT  
RETURN OF PRINCIPAL OFFICER ON WEDNESDAY OR FURTHER INFORMATION/  
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE. SIGNED HOFFENBERG UNQUOTE  
CRIMMINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** W/W: POSSIBLE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO AMERICAN PRIESTS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FM RECIFE MAY 17 ACTION AMEMBASSY  
BRASILIA BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION  
**TAGS:** CASC, (ROSEBAUGH, LAWRENCE), (CAPUANO, THOMAS)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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